

## Message Text

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USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USNMR SHAPE

DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 932

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: HELLENIKON SUBGROUP

REF: ATHENS 890 (DTG 291535Z JAN 76)

1. THE US SIDE OPENED THE JANUARY 29 HELLENIKON SUBGROUP REITERATING THE BASIC US MANPOWER REQUIREMENT OF 1350 PERSONNEL, OF WHICH NOT LESS THAN 850 HAD TO BE RETAINED ON-BASE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE US SIDE EMPHASIZED THAT THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL RELOCATION OF DEPENDENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE US PACKAGE PROPOSAL MADE AT THE JANUARY 26 PLENARY WAS TIED TO THE 1050 ON-BASE LEVEL.

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2. A RENEWED EFFORT WAS MADE TO NEGOTIATE THE 1050 FIGURE

AND RETAIN GROUND PROCESSING ON THE BASE. THE US SIDE OUTLINED NUMEROUS COMPLICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEA MAKRI SITE AND, IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED PRESENCE OF GROUND PROCESSING ON THE AIRBASE, OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE GREEKS WITH UNSPECIFIED ON-BASE ELINT AND EW-ASSOCIATED TRAINING AS A TANGIBLE BENEFIT FROM US RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS AT HELLENIKON. THE GREEK SPOKESMAN, BGEN KOURIS, DESCRIBED THE SUGGESTION AS A NEW ELEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND INDICATED THAT TIME WOULD BE NEEDED FOR CONSIDERATION OF IT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD CONFER WITH HAF EXPERTS TO DETERMINE IF THE PROPOSAL HELD THE PROMISE OF A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO GREEK SECURITY NEEDS AND THAT US SIDE COULD EXPECT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR ELABORATION. HE SAID THAT IF THE PROPOSAL PROVED TO BE OF SUBSTANCE IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH CALOGERAS AND THE MOD.

3. KOURIS THEN POINTED OUT THAT THE GREEKS COULD NOT FIND A WRITTEN RECORD OF ANY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE US TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS AT HELLENIKON. HE REFERRED TO THE AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIFIED US ACTIVITIES AT HELLENIKON CONTAINED IN APPENDIX II TO THE 1953 MFA, NOTING POINTEDLY THAT IT DID NOT REFER TO STATIONING RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENTS AT HELLENIKON. HE ASKED THAT THE US SIDE ENDEAVOR TO IDENTIFY ANY SUCH DOCUMENT AND PROVIDE HIM WITH A COPY, WHICH THE US SIDE AGREED TO DO. EMBASSY DOES HOLD THE OCTOBER 3, 1966 RHAF/US AIR ATTACHE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT, ON OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING RIGHTS, AND WILL PROVIDE THIS ONCE AGAIN TO GREEK SIDE, BUT WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY AGREEMENT PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO STATION RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENTS AT HELLENIKON. IF ANY ADDRESSEE HOLDS SUCH A DOCUMENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY OF SAME TELEGRAPHICALLY BY FEBRUARY 3.

4. IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY CURRENT GREEK THINKING ON RELOCATION, THE US SIDE ASKED IF THE GREEKS AGREED WITH THE CONCEPT OF RELOCATING SUPPORT PERSONNEL IN THE ATHENS AREA. KOURIS ANSWERED THAT HE PERSONALLY AGREED AND FELT THAT CALOGERAS WOULD ALSO, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR CALOGERAS.

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5. AFTER EXPRESSING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE GROUND TRANSPORT OF PERSONNEL AND MATERIALS BETWEEN HELLENIKON AND NEA MAKRI, KOURIS ASKED IF THE POSSIBILITY OF HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED. THE US SIDE RESPONDED THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO CREW AND SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE OF TWO AIRCRAFT. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL REQUIREMENT TO MOVE GROUND PROCESSING TO NEA MAKRI (OR

SOME OTHER LOCATION), WE REQUEST STATISTICS ON PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, COSTS, AND A FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS OF THE HELICOPTER TRANSPORT SUGGESTION.

6. KOURIS ASKED IF THE CONVERSION OF RC-135 MAINTENANCE AT HELLENIKON FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN CONTRACT MAINTENANCE OFFERED THE POTENTIAL OF ADDITIONAL JOBS FOR GREEK NATIONALS. WE REQUEST INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE A REPLY.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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